

Lake County Sheriff's Office

Christopher Covelli, Deputy Chief
Public Information Officer

Desk: 847.377.4180

Fax: 847.984.5738

Date: April 25, 2023



25 S. Martin Luther King Jr., Ave
Waukegan, Illinois 60087

www.lakecountyil.gov/sheriff

John D. Idleburg
Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

Lake County Sheriff's Office K9 Drako to Get Donation of Body Armor

Lake County Sheriff's Office K9 Drako will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Drako's vest is sponsored by a fundraiser hosted by Brittany Piccola of Watchung, NJ and will be embroidered with the sentiment "In honor of Nancy Plis". Delivery is expected within eight to ten weeks.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., established in 2009, is a 501(c)(3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. This potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 officers is U.S. made, custom fitted, and NIJ certified. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 5,043 vests to K9s in all 50 states at a value of \$6.9 million, made possible by both private and corporate donations.

The program is open to U.S. dogs that are at least 20 months old and actively employed and certified with law enforcement or related agencies. K9s with expired vests are also eligible to participate. There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is again proving to be an incredible partner in our efforts to keep our sheriff's canine safe. We are very grateful for their years of support to the Lake County Sheriff's Canine Team."

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. accepts tax-deductible contributions in any amount, while a single donation of \$985 will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of \$1800.00, weighs an average of 4-5 lb., and comes with a five-year warranty. For more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts donations at www.vik9s.org, or you may mail your contribution to P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718.

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